

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LENDING 01715 121423Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08

OES-07 COME-00 FMC-02 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 H-02

L-03 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /057 W

-----032254 121429Z /43

O 121413Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4412

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 01715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING SHIP CHARTERED BY US SCHOOL DOCKS AT
LENINGRAD

REF: STATE 147623 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING CALLS BY CONOFFS TO INFLOT AND SPUTNIK
AUTHORITIES IN LENINGRAD, PHOENIX WAS ALLOWED TO BERTH AT
LENINGRAD TRADE PORT ON FRIDAY EVENING JUNE 9 AT ABOUT
22:00. VESSEL DID NOT ACTUALLY ARRIVE AT DOCKSIDE FROM
ROADS UNTIL ABOUT 03:00 ON SATURDAY JUNE 10.

2. PHOENIX PROBLEM APPARENTLY RESULT OF PROBLEMS OF
COMMUNICATION AMONG RESPONSIBLE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
SPUTNIK OFFICIAL INFORMED CONOFF FRIDAY EVENING
THAT LOCAL INFLOT HAD BEEN INFORMED OF ARRIVAL OF PHOENIX
ONLY THE DAY BEFORE ALTHOUGH ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN
MADE BY HIS ORGANIZATION WITH INFLOT'S CENTRAL OFFICE IN
MOSCOW. VENTURING THE OPINION THAT QUOTE THEIR OWN WAR
IS GOING ON BETWEEN LOCAL INFLOT AND (LOCAL) PORT AUTHOR-
ITIES END QUOTE, SPUTNIK SOURCE FURTHER INFORMED CON-
OFF THAT PORT AUTHORITIES CLAIMED LACK OF BERTH SPACE FOR
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PAGE 02 LENDING 01715 121423Z

PHOENIX. INFLOT OFFICIAL TOLD CONOFF THAT PROBLEM CON-
SISTED IN FACT THAT WHEREAS SHIP WAS A SPORTING VESSEL,
INFLOT WAS ORGANIZED TO HANDLE ONLY CARGO AND PASSENGER
SHIPS. INFORMED IT WAS PRIMARILY A TRAINING SHIP, HE
ASSURED THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WOULD BE DONE TO RESOLVE
THE PROBLEM. SPUTNIK OFFERED COMPROMISE OF TAKING STU-
DENTS FROM THE SHIP AND BRINGING THEM BY LAUNCH TO LENIN-

GRAD WHERE THEY WOULD BE LODGED IN A HOTEL.

3. A LATER CALL TO INFLOT ON FRIDAY EVENING, ESTABLISHED THAT SHIP WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DOCK AT ABOUT 21:00, AND A SUBSEQUENT CALL EVOKED RESPONSE THAT IT WAS PROCEEDING TO THE BERTH AREA. ON SATURDAY MORNING, CONOFF LEARNED DOCKING HAD NOT ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE UNTIL 03:00 THAT MORNING.

4. POST HAS ALSO BEEN WORKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO RESOLVE VISA PROBLEM OF BRITISH CAPTAIN OF PHOENIX SO THAT HE CAN RETURN TO LONDON TO VISIT HIS ILL WIFE. INFLOT WAS UNABLE TO ARRANGE EXIT VISA OVER WEEKEND SINCE ALL OFFICIALS WHO COULD APPROVE SUCH A VISA IN HIS CASE WERE OUT OF TOWN. THEY INFORMED CONOFF THAT NO EXCEPTIONS COULD BE MADE AND THAT THE VISA COULD NOT BE OBTAINED BEFORE MONDAY. AN ADDITIONAL ASPECT OF CAPTAIN'S PROBLEM IS THAT THE TICKET HE POSSESSES CARRIES A SEAMAN'S DISCOUNT, WHICH AEROFLOT IS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED FINNAIR WILL ENDORSE TICKET AND SOVIET EXIT VISA HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR EVENING FLIGHT 12 JUNE. CAPTAIN HAS BEEN OFFERED USE OF CONSULATE TELEPHONE FACILITIES TO CALL LONDON SINCE HE CANNOT MAKE SUCH CALLS FROM THE PORT AREA WHERE HE IS STAYING. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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From: LENINGRAD
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ISecure: 1
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